68. The composition according to claim 67, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 200,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

69. The method according to claim 55, wherein the biocompatible composition comprises an additive.

70. The method according to claim 69, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a pH buffer, a stabilizer, and a surfactant.

Remarks

Please enter this second Preliminary Amendment, including amended claims 1, 21, and 41 and new claims 57-70 for examination.

Date: May 3, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

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Signature

APPENDIX - AMENDED AND NEW CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A biocompatible, resorbable, lubricous carrier for suspending a biomaterial in a tissue augmentation material, comprising a polysaccharide gel having a viscosity [greater than 200,000] between about 20,000 centipoise to about 350,000 centipoise, wherein the polysaccharide gel maintains the biomaterial homogeneously suspended in the tissue augmentation material prior to augmentation of a desired tissue site and during introduction of the tissue augmentation material to the desired site.

21. (Amended) A biocompatible composition for augmenting tissue, comprising a biomaterial for augmenting a desired tissue site and a biocompatible, resorbable, lubricous carrier for the biomaterial, the carrier comprising a polysaccharide gel having a viscosity [greater than 200,000] between about 20,000 centipoise to about 350,000 centipoise, wherein the carrier maintains the biomaterial homogeneously suspended in the biocompatible composition prior to augmentation of a desired tissue site and during introduction of the biocompatible composition to the desired site.

41. (Amended) In a biocompatible composition for augmenting tissue, the biocompatible composition comprising a biomaterial for augmenting a desired tissue site and a biocompatible, resorbable, lubricous carrier for the biomaterial, the improvement comprising a polysaccharide gel carrier, having a viscosity [greater than 200,000] between about 20,000 centipoise to about 350,000 centipoise, the carrier maintaining the biomaterial homogeneously

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suspended in the biocompatible composition prior to augmentation of a desired tissue site and during introduction of the biocompatible composition to the desired site.

57. The carrier according to claim 1, further comprising an additive.

58. The carrier according to claim 57, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a pH buffer, a stabilizer, and a surfactant.

59. The carrier according to claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 150,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

duplicate

60. The carrier according to claim 59, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 200,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

61. The composition according to claim 21, further comprising an additive.

62. The composition according to claim 61, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a pH buffer, a stabilizer, and a surfactant.

63. The composition according to claim 21, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 150,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

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64. The composition according to claim 63, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 200,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

65. The composition according to claim 42, further comprising an additive.

66. The composition according to claim 61, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a pH buffer, a stabilizer, and a surfactant.

duplicate

67. The composition according to claim 42, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 150,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

68. The composition according to claim 67, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 200,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

69. The method according to claim 55, wherein the biocompatible composition comprises an additive.

70. The method according to claim 69, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a pH buffer, a stabilizer, and a surfactant.

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